an>

Title: Need to repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): Ms. Irom Sharmila Chanu who has been on fast since November 2000 as a mark of protest against the Armed Forces Special powers Act 1958 has announced that she will end her fast on August 9 to contest Manipur polls next year. For the last 16 years Sharmila, the Iron Lady of Manipur, has lived under house arrest as an under trial prisoner in the special ward of the JNIMS Imphal. She has been fed through her nose all these years. We are happy to hear that she has decided to lead a normal life.

The recent SC verdict 'civil duty so civil law' declaring the Army and police are not free to use excess force even under the Armed Forces Special powers Act(AFSPA) is something long overdue. Time has come for the AFSPA to go. Hence, I strongly urge the union Government to immediately repeal this Act.